



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Authorize Improvements within the Electric Utility Operations Center and Appropriate Funding (\$12,500.00)

MEETING DATE: December 20, 2000

SUBMITTED BY: Electric Utility Director


RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing improvements within the Electric Utility Operations Center and appropriate the necessary funding.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Electric Utility Operations Center is the communications hub for both Electric and Public Works crews. It also serves as the center for electric operations, dispatch and system control and receives and dispatches various types of calls from the public, other departments and agencies. The large volume of communication is primarily done via telephone, cell phone and mobile radios. However, both the public and city staff also enters the area to conduct business. This arrangement, coupled with the very poor acoustics of the room, produces an extremely difficult work environment for the operator when communicating via radios and phones especially during heavy traffic periods such as outages, clearances and electric dispatch. Complaints are often received from field personnel indicating difficulty in hearing radio and phone transmissions due to background noise and acoustics. These conditions do delay the operational functions and do add a significant safety element to the effective, accurate and precise communications required for a safe and efficient dispatch operation. To address the above conditions it is recommended to have carpeting installed in the area resulting in a significant improvement in acoustics. Further, it is recommended that an area, isolated from the dispatch section, be provided where the public and City staff can interact with operations staff while conducting business without interference to the dispatching operator. This isolated area will be constructed utilizing appropriate modular furniture and dividers.

The growth of the City, and in turn the electric distribution system, has resulted in the dispatch board expanding and now utilizing the entire available space from floor to ceiling. The growth of the City likewise has resulted in an increased number of records and maps that must be kept on file but still readily available. To resolve these growth related problems, it is recommended that a new dispatch board, with room for expansion, be installed and that storage cabinets be installed along one available wall within the operations center. The storage cabinets will also provide needed counter top space for placement of maps and drawings when preparing various operational documents.

The above modifications were considered during the Department's 1999-2001 budget preparation. However, based on the projected construction schedule at the time, for a new service center these modifications were not included in the budget. The conditions in the operations center, as discussed above, coupled with today's construction schedule warrants the recommendation to proceed with the modifications at this time in order to operate in the most efficient, effective and safest manner possible.

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

FUNDING: Electric Utility Operating Fund Balance

Funding Approval:

Vicky McAthie
Vicky McAthie, Finance Director

Alan N. Vallow

Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

PREPARED BY: Hans Hansen, Manager, Engineering and Operations

ANV/HH/lst

c: City Attorney

APPROVED: _____

H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-227

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LODI
AUTHORIZING IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE ELECTRIC
UTILITY OPERATIONS CENTER, AND FURTHER
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT

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WHEREAS, Lodi Municipal Code, Section 3.20.070, authorizes dispensing with bids for purchases of supplies, services or equipment when it is in the best interest of the City to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Electric Utility Operations Center is the communications hub for both Electric and Public Works crews, and also serves as the center for electric operations, dispatch and system control and receives and dispatches various types of calls from the public, other departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the large volume of communication is primarily done via telephone, cell phone and mobile radios, and the public and City staff also enters the area to conduct business; and

WHEREAS, this arrangement, coupled with the very poor acoustics of the room, produces an extremely difficult work environment for the operator communicating via radios and phones especially during heavy traffic periods such as outages, clearances and electric dispatch; and

WHEREAS, these conditions do delay the operational functions and therefore adds a significant safety element to the effective, accurate and precise communications required for a safe and efficient dispatch operation; and

WHEREAS, due to the growth in the City, and in turn the electric distribution system, the dispatch board has expanded and is now utilizing the entire available space from floor to ceiling. The growth has also resulted in an increased number of records and maps that must be kept on file but still readily available; and

WHEREAS, staff therefore recommends the following: 1) that carpeting be installed in the area resulting in a significant improvement in acoustics; 2) isolate area from the dispatch section where the public and City staff can interact with operations staff while conducting business without interference to the dispatching operator; 3) installation of a new dispatch board with room for expansion with storage cabinets along one wall within the operations center, which will also provide needed countertop space for placement of maps and drawings when preparing various operational documents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lodi City Council does hereby authorize the improvements within the Electric Utility Operations Center, and further appropriates funds in the total amount of \$12,500.00 for this project.

Dated: December 20, 2000

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2000-227 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held December 20, 2000, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hitchcock, Howard, Land, Pennino and
Mayor Nakanishi

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None


SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk